

State of Wisconsin

## DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

### - DIVISION OF MERIT RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION BULLETIN -

**Date:** February 25, 1998

**Subject:** Changes to Veterans Preference Law

**Locator No.:** MRS-186

This bulletin supplements MRS-153 dated April 22, 1994, and MRS-151 & AA-41 dated February 17, 1994.

Recent changes in the law expanded the definition of a veteran to include certain peacetime veterans. The changes apply to applications submitted on or after October 14, 1997. Since that date, the Department of Employment Relations has been notifying applicants of this expanded definition through a special notice contained in the *Current Employment Opportunities Bulletin*. This bulletin contains a new *Veterans Preference Supplement* form which has been modified to reflect the changed definition.

Effective October 14, 1997, if an applicant is not a permanent state employee in the classified service, and if the applicant meets the requirements below, then the person may be awarded 10 veterans preference points.

§230.03(14)(d) Wis. Stats: “A person who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces for 2 continuous years or more or the full period of the person’s initial service obligation, whichever is less. A person discharged from the U.S. armed forces for reasons of hardship or service-connected disability or a person released due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces prior to the completion of the required period of service shall also be considered a ‘veteran’, regardless of the actual time served.”

The above definition is in **addition** to the previous qualifying wartime periods. Thus, if an individual had service in other periods listed on the *Veterans Preference Supplement* form, he or she still qualifies for preference points.

The definition of “disabled veteran” was also changed. The new definition of “disabled veteran” no longer requires the disability to be directly traceable to wartime service. The disability must only be **service-connected** in order to receive additional veterans preference points.

§230.03(9m) “Disabled veteran” means a veteran who has a service-connected disability.

The change also means that a current permanent classified state employee who has a 70% or greater **service-connected** disability may be eligible for special consideration on promotional registers. Service does not have to occur during a specified war period or campaign.

The *Veterans Preference Supplement* form (DER-MRS-38L) has been modified to reflect these changes. A copy of the revised form is attached. Agencies that use this form should make copies (on green paper) of the attachment since the *Veterans Preference Supplement* is not available from DOA Forms Center. Agencies can continue to accept the old *Supplement* form but should destroy any existing quantities on hand and begin passing out the new replacement version.

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Division of Merit Recruitment and Selection

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Attachment

vpsuppl.doc